

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIE-00 TRSE-00
EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 ERDE-00 SSO-00 /025 W
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O P 201746Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8664
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 2670

EXCON

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC AU UK EI UR COCOM
SUBJ: US ORIGIN COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TO USSR

REF: DUBLIN 2666 AND PREVIOUS

1. CHARGE' AND ECON OFFICER WERE CALLED TO DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTERNOON DECEMBER 20 REGARDING COCOM CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT NOW IN SHANNON (REFTEL). IRISH ARE CLEARLY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION THAT HAS DEVELOPED. THEY FEEL (AND WE AGREE) THAT THEY HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH IN ATTEMPTING TO APPLY COCOM CONTROLS, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF OBTAINING MINISTERIAL ORDERS ON A WEEKEND. AT THIS POINT THEY ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY PUBLICITY OR A COURT CHALLENGE THAT MIGHT SERVE TO UNDERMINE THE EXPORT CONTROLS THEY CURRENTLY HAVE IN EFFECT, AND THEY WANT TO RESOLVE THE CASE AS URGENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT PRESSURE THE USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING ON THE US PRINCIPALS INVOLVED IN
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ORDER TO RELIEVE GOI OF THE FULL BURDEN OF POLICING THIS ILLEGAL TRANSACTION. SENIOR OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAY INSTRUCT IRISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO DEPARTMENT TO THIS END. HOWEVER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS DECIDED TO HOLD OFF ON INSTRUCTIONS TO SEE IF ISSUE CAN BE OTHERWISE RESOLVED. GOI WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO HAVE

EQUIPMENT SHIPPED BACK TO POINT OF ORIGIN OR TO OTHER APPROVED DESTINATION. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THEY CAN LEGALLY HOLD THE GOODS IN SHANNON FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, BUT IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING TO DO SO. ALSO, THE LONGER THE GOODS REMAIN AT SHANNON THE GREATER IS THE LIKILHOOD OF A LAWSUIT OR UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL REQUEST WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM IRISH, COULD COMMERCE AGAIN ATTEMP TO CONTACT AMERICAN PRINCIPALS AND APPLY PRESSURE? ALSO, IRISH WOULD LIKE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHO MANUFACTURED THE CONTROLLED COMPONENTS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. FINALLY, THEY REITERATED THEIR REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHY HMG RELEASED GOODS FROM LONDON, THUS PERMITTING THE WHOLE PROBLEM TO MOVE INTO IRISH JURISDICTION.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT GUIDANCE. RENDAHL

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Message Attributes

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